## Senate Study Bill 3036 - Introduced

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE

ON JUDICIARY BILL BY

CHAIRPERSON ZAUN)

## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the Iowa trust code, including the creation
- of directed trusts, the transfer of trust assets into
- other trusts, and requirements related to notices to
- 4 beneficiaries.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F.
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- 1 Section 1. Section 633A.1102, Code 2020, is amended by
- 2 adding the following new subsections:
- NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. "Distribution trust director" means
- 4 any person given authority by an instrument to exercise all or
- 5 any portion of the powers and discretions set forth in section
- 6 633A.4810. Except as provided in the trust instrument, the
- 7 distribution trust director shall have the same fiduciary duty
- 8 and liability in the exercise or nonexercise of such powers
- 9 and discretions as the trustee would in the absence of such
- 10 directory powers.
- 11 NEW SUBSECTION. 6B. "Excluded fiduciary" means any
- 12 fiduciary excluded from exercising certain powers under an
- 13 instrument which powers may be exercised by the settlor, trust
- 14 director, trust protector, or other persons designated in the
- 15 instrument.
- 16 NEW SUBSECTION. 10A. "Investment trust director" means any
- 17 person given authority by an instrument to exercise all or any
- 18 portion of the powers and discretions set forth in section
- 19 633A.4809. Except as provided in the trust instrument, the
- 20 investment trust director shall have the same fiduciary duty
- 21 and liability in the exercise or nonexercise of such powers
- 22 and discretions as the trustee would in the absence of such
- 23 directory powers.
- 24 NEW SUBSECTION. 19A. "Trust director" means either an
- 25 investment trust director or a distribution trust director.
- 26 NEW SUBSECTION. 19B. "Trust protector" means any person
- 27 given authority by an instrument to exercise all or any portion
- 28 of the powers and discretions set forth in section 633A.4805.
- 29 A trust protector shall not be considered to be acting in
- 30 a fiduciary capacity except to the extent the governing
- 31 instrument provides otherwise. However, a trust protector
- 32 shall be considered to be acting in a fiduciary capacity to
- 33 the extent that the trust protector exercises the authority or
- 34 powers of a trust director.
- 35 Sec. 2. Section 633A.1102, subsection 7, Code 2020, is

- 1 amended to read as follows:
- Fiduciary includes a personal representative, executor,
- 3 administrator, guardian, conservator, and trustee, and trust
- 4 director.
- 5 Sec. 3. Section 633A.4207, subsection 2, Code 2020, is
- 6 amended to read as follows:
- 7 2. If In addition to any powers granted to a trustee, the
- 8 terms of the trust may confer upon a person other than the
- 9 settlor of a revocable trust director the power to direct
- 10 certain actions of the trustee, the trustee shall act in
- 11 accordance with an exercise of the power unless the trustee
- 12 knows the attempted exercise violates the terms of the trust
- 13 or the trustee knows that the person holding the power is not
- 14 competent and to take such other actions with respect to the
- 15 trust as set forth in sections 633A.4801 through 633A.4810.
- 16 A person's status as a trust director or trust protector
- 17 under Iowa law shall be determined on the basis of the powers
- 18 granted and not on the name given to such person in the trust
- 19 instrument.
- 20 Sec. 4. Section 633A.4207, subsection 3, Code 2020, is
- 21 amended by striking the subsection.
- Sec. 5. Section 633A.4213, Code 2020, is amended by adding
- 23 the following new subsection:
- 24 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Notwithstanding anything in this
- 25 chapter to the contrary, if a trust instrument, or a trust
- 26 protector authorized by the trust instrument, designates that a
- 27 notice, accounting, or report may be delivered to the settlor
- 28 or to a designated representative on behalf of a beneficiary
- 29 prior to such beneficiary's twenty-fifth birthday, then,
- 30 to the extent there is no conflict of interest between the
- 31 representative and the beneficiary, all notices, accountings,
- 32 and reports served on such representative with respect to such
- 33 period will have the same effect as if such beneficiary had
- 34 been served directly.
- 35 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 633A.4215 Distributions in further

## 1 trust.

- 2 l. As used in this section:
- 3 a. "First trust" means a trust from which income or
- 4 principal is transferred into the second trust.
- b. "Restricted trustee" means a trustee of the first trust
- 6 if such trustee is a beneficiary of the first trust or if such
- 7 trustee has the power to change the trustees of the first trust
- 8 within the meaning of subsection 5.
- 9 c. "Second trust" means a trust into which the income or
- 10 principal of the first trust has been transferred.
- 11 2. Unless the terms of the governing instrument expressly
- 12 provide otherwise, if a trustee of the first trust has
- 13 discretion under the terms of a governing instrument to make a
- 14 distribution of income or principal to or for the benefit of
- 15 one or more beneficiaries of the first trust, whether or not
- 16 restricted by any standard, then the trustee, independently or
- 17 with court approval, may appoint part or all of the income or
- 18 principal subject to the trustee's discretion in favor of a
- 19 trustee of a second trust under a governing instrument separate
- 20 from the governing instrument of the first trust. Before
- 21 exercising the trustee's discretion to appoint and distribute
- 22 assets to a second trust, the trustee of the first trust shall
- 23 determine whether the appointment is necessary or desirable
- 24 after taking into account the purposes of the first trust, the
- 25 terms and conditions of the second trust, and the consequences
- 26 of the distribution. In addition, the following apply to all
- 27 appointments made under this section:
- 28 a. The second trust may only have as beneficiaries one or
- 29 more of the beneficiaries of the first trust to or for whom
- 30 a discretionary distribution of income or principal may be
- 31 made from the first trust, or to or for whom a distribution of
- 32 income or principal may be made in the future from the first
- 33 trust at a time or upon the happening of an event specified
- 34 under the first trust.
- 35 b. No restricted trustee of the first trust may exercise

1 such authority over the first trust to the extent that doing so
2 could have any of the following effects:

- 3 (1) Benefiting the restricted trustee as a beneficiary 4 of the first trust, unless the exercise of such authority is
- 5 limited by an ascertainable standard based on or related to 6 health, education, maintenance, or support.
- 7 (2) Removing restrictions on discretionary distributions to
- 8 a beneficiary imposed by the governing instrument under which
- 9 the first trust was created, except that a provision in the
- 10 second trust which limits distributions by an ascertainable
- 11 standard based on or related to the health, education,
- 12 maintenance, or support of any such beneficiary is permitted,
- 13 as is a distribution to a trust established pursuant to 42
- 14 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4).
- 15 c. No restricted trustee of the first trust may exercise
- 16 such authority over the first trust to the extent that doing
- 17 so would have the effect of increasing the distributions that
- 18 can be made from the second trust to the restricted trustees of
- 19 the first trust or to a beneficiary who may change the trustees
- 20 of the first trust within the meaning of subsection 5 compared
- 21 to the distributions that can be made to such trustee or
- 22 beneficiary, as the case may be, under the first trust, unless
- 23 the exercise of such authority is limited by an ascertainable
- 24 standard based on or related to health, education, support,
- 25 or maintenance within the meaning of section 2041(b)(1)(A) or
- 26 2514(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 27 d. The provisions of paragraphs "a" and "b" only apply to
- 28 restrict the authority of a trustee if either a trustee, or
- 29 a beneficiary who may change the trustee, is a United States
- 30 citizen or domiciliary under the Internal Revenue Code, or the
- 31 trust owns property that would be subject to United States
- 32 estate or gift taxes if owned directly by such a person.
- 33 e. In the case of any trust contributions which have been
- 34 treated as gifts qualifying for the exclusion from gift tax
- 35 described in section 2503(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, by

- 1 reason of the application of section 2503(c) of the Internal
- 2 Revenue Code, the governing instrument for the second trust
- 3 shall provide that the beneficiary's remainder interest shall
- 4 vest no later than the date upon which such interest would have
- 5 vested under the terms of the governing instrument for the
- 6 first trust.
- 7 f. The exercise of such authority may not reduce any income
- 8 interest of any income beneficiary of any of the following
- 9 trusts:
- 10 (1) A trust for which a marital deduction has been taken for
- 11 federal tax purposes under section 2056 or 2523 of the Internal
- 12 Revenue Code, or for state tax purposes under any comparable
- 13 provision of applicable state law.
- 14 (2) A charitable remainder trust under section 664 of the
- 15 Internal Revenue Code.
- 16 (3) A grantor retained annuity or unitrust trust under
- 17 section 2702 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 18 g. The exercise of such authority does not apply to trust
- 19 property subject to a presently exercisable power of withdrawal
- 20 held by a trust beneficiary to whom, or for the benefit of
- 21 whom, the trustee has authority to make distributions, unless
- 22 after the exercise of such authority, the beneficiary's power
- 23 of withdrawal is unchanged with respect to the trust property.
- 24 h. The exercise of such authority is not prohibited by a
- 25 provision in the governing instrument that prohibits amendment
- 26 or revocation of the trust.
- 27 i. Any appointment made by a trustee shall be considered
- 28 a distribution by the trustee pursuant to the trustee's
- 29 distribution powers and authority.
- 30 j. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this
- 31 subsection, the governing instrument of the second trust
- 32 may grant a power of appointment to one or more of the
- 33 beneficiaries of the second trust who are beneficiaries of
- 34 the first trust. The power of appointment may include the
- 35 power to appoint trust property to the holder of the power of

- 1 appointment, the holder's creditors, the holder's estate, the
- 2 creditors of the holder's estate, or any other person, whether
- 3 or not that person is a trust beneficiary.
- 4 1. This section applies to any trust administered under
- 5 the laws of this state, including a trust whose governing
- 6 jurisdiction is transferred to this state.
- 7 3. Any action that may not be taken by a trustee of the
- 8 first trust by reason of the restrictions in subsection 2,
- 9 paragraph b'', may instead be taken by any other trustee of the
- 10 first trust who is not so restricted, or, if none, by the next
- 11 available party who can be a successor trustee and who is not
- 12 so restricted.
- 13 4. The second trust may be a trust created or administered
- 14 under the laws of any jurisdiction, within or without the
- 15 United States.
- 16 5. For the purposes of subsection 2, a beneficiary shall
- 17 be considered to have the power to change the trustees if the
- 18 beneficiary can, alone or with others, name such beneficiary
- 19 as a trustee or can remove a trustee and replace that trustee
- 20 with a new trustee who is the beneficiary or who is related or
- 21 subordinate, as defined in section 672 of the Internal Revenue
- 22 Code, to the beneficiary.
- 23 6. The exercise of the power to distribute the income
- 24 or principal of the trust under this section shall be by an
- 25 instrument in writing, signed and acknowledged by the trustee,
- 26 and filed with the records of the trust. The trustee of the
- 27 first trust may notify the beneficiaries of the first trust, in
- 28 writing, prior to the effective date of the trustee's exercise
- 29 of the power under this section. A copy of the exercise of this
- 30 authority and the second trust agreement shall satisfy this
- 31 notice provision. For the purposes of this section, the term
- 32 "beneficiaries" means those persons who would be entitled to
- 33 notice and a copy of the first trust instrument under section
- 34 633A.4213.
- 35 7. The exercise of the power to distribute the income or

- 1 principal of the trust under this section shall be considered
- 2 the exercise of a power of appointment, excluding the power to
- 3 appoint the trustee, the trustee's creditors, the trustee's
- 4 estate, or the creditors of the trustee's estate.
- 5 8. The power under this section may not be exercised to
- 6 suspend the power to alienate trust property or extend the
- 7 first trust beyond the permissible period of any rule against
- 8 perpetuities applicable to the first trust.
- 9 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 633A.4801 Governing instrument
- 10 may provide trust director or trust protector with powers and
- 11 immunities of trustee.
- 12 Any governing instrument providing for a trust director
- 13 or trust protector may also provide such trust director
- 14 or trust protector with some, none, or all of the rights,
- 15 powers, privileges, benefits, immunities, or authorities
- 16 available to a trustee under the law of this state or under
- 17 the governing instrument. Unless the governing instrument
- 18 provides otherwise, a trust director or trust protector has no
- 19 greater liability to any person than would a trustee holding
- 20 or benefiting from the rights, powers, privileges, benefits,
- 21 immunities, or authority provided or allowed by the governing
- 22 instrument to such trust director or trust protector.
- 23 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 633A.4802 Liability limits of excluded
- 24 fiduciary.
- 25 l. An excluded fiduciary is not liable, either individually
- 26 or as a fiduciary, for any of the following:
- 27 a. Any loss that results from compliance with a direction of
- 28 the trust director, including any loss from the trust director
- 29 breaching fiduciary responsibilities or acting beyond the trust
- 30 director's scope of authority.
- 31 b. Any loss that results from a failure to take any
- 32 action proposed by an excluded fiduciary that requires prior
- 33 authorization of the trust director if that excluded fiduciary
- 34 timely sought but failed to obtain that authorization.
- 35 c. Any loss that results from any action or inaction of

1 the excluded fiduciary, except for gross negligence or willful

- 2 misconduct, when the excluded fiduciary is required, pursuant
- 3 to the trust agreement or any other reason, to assume the role
- 4 of trust director or trust protector.
- 5 2. An excluded fiduciary is relieved of any obligation
- 6 to review or evaluate any direction from a trust director or
- 7 to perform investment or suitability reviews, inquiries, or
- 8 investigations or to make recommendations or evaluations with
- 9 respect to any investments to the extent the trust director
- 10 had authority to direct the acquisition, disposition, or
- 11 retention of the investment. If the excluded fiduciary offers
- 12 recommendations or evaluations with respect to any investments
- 13 to the trust director, trust protector, or any investment
- 14 advisor selected by the investment trust director, such action
- 15 may not be deemed to constitute an undertaking by the excluded
- 16 fiduciary to monitor or otherwise participate in actions within
- 17 the scope of the trust director's authority or to constitute
- 18 any duty to do so.
- 19 3. An excluded fiduciary is relieved of any duty to
- 20 communicate with, warn, or apprise any beneficiary or third
- 21 party concerning instances in which the excluded fiduciary may
- 22 have exercised the excluded fiduciary's own discretion in a
- 23 manner different from the manner directed by the trust director
- 24 or trust protector.
- 4. Absent contrary provisions in the governing instrument,
- 26 the actions of the excluded fiduciary pertaining to matters
- 27 within the scope of authority of the trust director or trust
- 28 protector shall be deemed to be administrative actions taken by
- 29 the excluded fiduciary solely to allow the excluded fiduciary
- 30 to perform those duties assigned to the excluded fiduciary
- 31 under the governing instrument, and such administrative
- 32 actions shall not be deemed to constitute an undertaking by
- 33 the excluded fiduciary to monitor, participate, or otherwise
- 34 take on any fiduciary responsibility for actions within the
- 35 scope of authority of the trust director or trust protector.

- 1 For purposes of this subsection, "administrative actions" shall
- 2 include communications with the trust director or others and
- 3 carrying out, recording, or reporting actions taken at the
- 4 trust director's direction.
- 5 5. In an action against an excluded fiduciary pursuant to
- 6 the provisions of this section, the burden to prove the matter
- 7 by clear and convincing evidence is on the person seeking to
- 8 hold the excluded fiduciary liable.
- 9 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 633A.4803 Death of settlor.
- 10 An excluded fiduciary may continue to follow the direction
- 11 of the trust director upon the incapacity or death of the
- 12 settlor if the instrument so allows.
- 13 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 633A.4804 Excluded fiduciary's
- 14 liability for loss if trust protector appointed.
- 15 If an instrument appoints a trust protector, the excluded
- 16 fiduciary is not liable for any loss resulting from any action
- 17 taken upon the trust protector's direction.
- 18 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 633A.4805 Powers and discretions of
- 19 trust protector.
- 20 l. The powers and discretions of a trust protector are as
- 21 provided in the governing instrument and may be exercised or
- 22 not exercised, in the best interests of the trust, in the sole
- 23 and absolute discretion of the trust protector and are binding
- 24 on all other persons. Except as otherwise provided in the
- 25 governing instrument, the trust protector may do all of the
- 26 following:
- 27 a. Modify or amend the trust instrument to achieve favorable
- 28 tax status or respond to changes in the Internal Revenue Code,
- 29 state law, or the rulings and regulations thereunder.
- 30 b. Increase or decrease the interests of any beneficiaries
- 31 to the trust.
- c. Modify the terms of any power of appointment granted
- 33 by the trust. However, a modification or amendment shall
- 34 not grant a beneficial interest to any individual or class
- 35 of individuals not specifically provided for under the trust

- l instrument.
- 2 d. Remove and appoint a trustee, trust director, or other
- 3 person designated in the governing trust instrument.
- 4 e. Terminate the trust.
- 5 f. Veto or direct trust distributions.
- 6 q. Change situs of the trust.
- 7 h. Change the governing law of the trust.
- 8 i. Appoint a successor trust protector.
- j. Interpret terms of the trust instrument at the request
- 10 of the trustee.
- 11 k. Advise the trustee on matters concerning a beneficiary.
- 12 1. Amend or modify the trust instrument to take advantage of
- 13 laws governing restraints on alienation, distribution of trust
- 14 property, or the administration of the trust.
- 15 m. Provide direction regarding notification of qualified
- 16 beneficiaries pursuant to section 633A.4213.
- 17 n. Add to the trust an individual beneficiary or
- 18 beneficiaries from a class of individuals identified in the
- 19 governing instrument.
- 20 o. Add to the trust a charitable beneficiary or
- 21 beneficiaries from a class of charities identified in the trust
- 22 instrument.
- 23 p. Provide other powers and discretions in the governing
- 24 instrument.
- 25 2. The powers referenced in subsection 1, paragraphs  $\tilde{e}$  ,
- 26 "f'', and "I'', may be granted notwithstanding the provisions of
- 27 sections 633A.2201 through 633A.2208.
- 28 Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 633A.4806 Submission to court
- 29 jurisdiction effect on trust director or trust protector.
- 30 By accepting an appointment to serve as a trust director or
- 31 trust protector of a trust that is subject to the laws of this
- 32 state, the trust director or the trust protector submits to the
- 33 jurisdiction of the courts of Iowa even if investment advisory
- 34 agreements or other related agreements provide otherwise. The
- 35 trust director or trust protector may be made a party to any

- 1 action or proceeding if a decision or action of the trust
- 2 director or trust protector affects a trust that is subject to
- 3 the laws of this state.
- 4 Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 633A.4807 Powers of trust director
- 5 incorporated by reference in will or trust instrument.
- 6 Any of the powers enumerated in section 633A.4805, as they
- 7 exist at the time of the signing of a will by a testator or at
- 8 the time of the signing of a trust instrument by a settlor,
- 9 may be, by appropriate reference made thereto, incorporated in
- 10 whole or in part in such will or trust instrument, by a clearly
- ll expressed intention of a testator of a will or settlor of a
- 12 trust instrument.
- 13 Sec. 14. NEW SECTION. 633A.4808 Investment trust director
- 14 or distribution trust director provided for in trust instrument.
- 15 A trust instrument governed by the laws of this state may
- 16 provide for a person to act as an investment trust director
- 17 or a distribution trust director with regard to investment
- 18 decisions or discretionary distributions, respectively. Unless
- 19 otherwise provided by the terms of the governing instrument, a
- 20 person may simultaneously serve as a trust director and a trust
- 21 protector.
- 22 Sec. 15. NEW SECTION. 633A.4809 Powers and discretions of
- 23 investment trust director.
- 24 The powers and discretions of an investment trust director
- 25 shall be provided in the trust instrument and may be exercised
- 26 or not exercised, in the best interests of the trust, in the
- 27 sole and absolute discretion of the investment trust director
- 28 and are binding on any other person and any other interested
- 29 party, fiduciary, and excluded fiduciary. Unless the terms
- 30 of the governing instrument provide otherwise, the investment
- 31 trust director has the power to do all of the following:
- 32 1. Direct the trustee with respect to the retention,
- 33 purchase, sale, exchange, tender, or other transaction
- 34 affecting the ownership thereof or rights therein of trust
- 35 investments. These powers include the pledge or encumbrance

- 1 of trust property, lending of trust assets, either secured or
- 2 unsecured, at terms defined by the investment trust director,
- 3 to any party including beneficiaries of the trust, and the
- 4 investment and reinvestment of principal and income of the
- 5 trust.
- 6 2. Vote proxies for securities held in trust.
- 7 3. Select one or more investment directors, managers, or
- 8 counselors, including the trustee, and delegate to them any of
- 9 the investment trust director's powers.
- 10 4. Direct the trustee with respect to any additional powers
- 11 and discretions over investment and management of trust assets
- 12 provided in the governing instrument.
- 13 5. Direct the trustee as to the value of nonpublicly traded
- 14 trust investments.
- 15 6. Direct the trustee as to any investment or management
- 16 power referenced in sections 633A.4401 and 633A.4402.
- 17 Sec. 16. NEW SECTION. 633A.4810 Powers and discretions of
- 18 distribution trust director.
- 19 The powers and discretions of a distribution trust director
- 20 over any discretionary distributions of income or principal,
- 21 including distributions pursuant to an ascertainable standard
- 22 or other criteria and appointments pursuant to section
- 23 633A.4215, shall be provided in the trust instrument and may
- 24 be exercised or not exercised, in the best interests of the
- 25 trust, in the sole and absolute discretion of the distribution
- 26 trust director and are binding on any other person and any
- 27 other interested party, fiduciary, and excluded fiduciary.
- 28 Unless the terms of the document provide otherwise, the
- 29 distribution trust director shall direct the trustee with
- 30 regard to all discretionary distributions to beneficiaries
- 31 and may direct appointments pursuant to section 633A.4215.
- 32 The distribution trust director may also provide direction
- 33 regarding notification of qualified beneficiaries pursuant to
- 34 section 633A.4213.
- 35 Sec. 17. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the

- 1 general assembly that the provisions of this Act enacting
- 2 section 433A.4215 is declaratory of the common law of this
- 3 state permitting distributions in further trust and shall be
- 4 liberally construed to effectuate the intent to maintain such
- 5 common law authority. Section 433A.4215, as enacted by this
- 6 Act, shall not be construed to abridge the right of any trustee
- 7 who has power to distribute income or principal in further
- 8 trust which arises under the terms of the first trust or any
- 9 statute or common law applicable to such trust.
- 10 Sec. 18. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The Code editor may
- 11 organize the provisions of this Act enacting sections 633A.4801
- 12 through 633A.4810 as a new part under subchapter IV in chapter
- 13 633A.
- 14 EXPLANATION
- The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 17 This bill relates to the Iowa trust code. The bill codifies
- 18 the concept of decanting, which generally allows trustees to
- 19 appoint part or all of the income or principal subject to their
- 20 discretion in favor of a trustee of a second trust. The second
- 21 trust may be a trust created or administered under the laws of
- 22 any jurisdiction, within or without the United States.
- 23 The bill creates and empowers new positions in the trusts
- 24 area, including distribution trust directors, excluded
- 25 fiduciaries, investment trust directors, trust directors, and
- 26 trust protectors.
- 27 The bill defines "distribution trust director" as any person
- 28 given authority by the instrument to exercise all or any
- 29 portion of the powers and discretions set forth in new Code
- 30 section 633A.4810.
- 31 The bill defines "excluded fiduciary" as any fiduciary
- 32 excluded from exercising certain powers under the instrument
- 33 which powers may be exercised by the settlor, trust director,
- 34 trust protector, or other persons designated in the instrument.
- 35 The bill defines "investment trust director" as any person

- 1 given authority by the instrument to exercise all or any
- 2 portion of the powers and discretions set forth in new Code
- 3 section 633A.4809.
- 4 The bill defines "trust director" as either an investment
- 5 trust director or a distribution trust director.
- 6 The bill defines "trust protector" as any person given
- 7 authority by the instrument to exercise all or any portion
- 8 of the powers and discretions set forth in new Code section
- 9 633A.4805.
- 10 The bill amends the definition of "fiduciary" in Code
- 11 section 633A.1102 to include "trust director".
- 12 The bill also amends Code section 633A.4207 to instead
- 13 provide for powers to be granted to a trust director. The
- 14 bill further modifies Code section 633A.4207 to indicate a
- 15 person's status as a trust director or trust protector is to
- 16 be determined by the powers granted to such person, not the
- 17 language in the governing instrument.
- The bill strikes Code section 633A.4207(3), which stated a
- 19 person other than a beneficiary who held the power to direct
- 20 was presumptively a fiduciary and was liable for any loss that
- 21 resulted from a breach of the person's fiduciary duty.
- 22 The bill adds a new subsection to Code section 633A.4213.
- 23 This new subsection provides that if a trust instrument, or a
- 24 trust protector authorized by the trust instrument, designates
- 25 that a notice, accounting, or report may be delivered to the
- 26 settlor or to a designated representative on behalf of a
- 27 beneficiary prior to such beneficiary's 25th birthday, then,
- 28 to the extent there is no conflict of interest between the
- 29 representative and the beneficiary, all notices, accountings,
- 30 and reports served on such representative with respect to such
- 31 period will have the same effect as if such beneficiary had
- 32 been served directly.
- The bill limits a trustee's decanting ability in several
- 34 ways. First, decanting is allowed when a trustee has
- 35 discretion under the terms of a governing instrument to make a

- 1 distribution of income or principal to or for the benefit of
- 2 one or more beneficiaries of a trust.
- 3 Second, before exercising the trustee's discretion to
- 4 appoint and distribute assets to a second trust, the trustee
- 5 of the first trust must determine whether the appointment is
- 6 necessary or desirable after taking into account the purposes
- 7 of the first trust, the terms and conditions of the second
- 8 trust, and the consequences of the distribution.
- 9 Third, the bill limits a restricted trustee's decanting
- 10 ability. The trustee of the first trust is a "restricted
- 11 trustee" if such trustee is a beneficiary of the first trust or
- 12 if a beneficiary of the first trust has a power to change the
- 13 trustees within the meaning of Code section 633A.4215(5). Th
- 14 bill provides a restricted trustee is prohibited from decanting
- 15 the trust if doing so could benefit the restricted trustee as
- 16 a beneficiary of the first trust, unless the exercise of such
- 17 authority is limited by an ascertainable standard related to
- 18 health, education, maintenance, or support. The bill also
- 19 provides a restricted trustee is prohibited from decanting the
- 20 trust if doing so could remove restrictions on discretionary
- 21 distributions to a beneficiary imposed by the governing
- 22 instrument under which the first trust was created, except that
- 23 a provision in the second trust which limits distributions by
- 24 an ascertainable standard related to the health, education,
- 25 maintenance, or support of any such beneficiary is permitted,
- 26 as is a distribution to a trust established pursuant to 42
- 27 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4).
- Fourth, the second trust may only have as beneficiaries
- 29 one or more of the beneficiaries of the first trust to or for
- 30 whom a discretionary distribution of income or principal may
- 31 be made from the first trust, or to or for whom a distribution
- 32 of income or principal may be made in the future from the first
- 33 trust at a time or upon the happening of an event specified
- 34 under the first trust.
- 35 Fifth, no restricted trustee of the first trust may exercise

1 authority over the first trust to the extent that doing so

- 2 would have the effect of increasing the distributions that can
- 3 be made from the second trust to the restricted trustees of the
- 4 first trust or to a beneficiary who may change the trustees of
- 5 the first trust compared to the distributions that can be made
- 6 to such trustee or beneficiary, as the case may be, under the
- 7 first trust, unless the exercise of such authority is limited
- 8 by an ascertainable standard related to health, education,
- 9 support, or maintenance within the meaning of section
- 10 2041(b)(1)(A) or 2514(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 11 Sixth, in the case of any trust contributions which have
- 12 been treated as gifts qualifying for the exclusion from gift
- 13 tax described in section 2503(b) of the Internal Revenue Code,
- 14 by reason of the application of section 2503(c) of the Internal
- 15 Revenue Code, the governing instrument for the second trust
- 16 is to provide that the beneficiary's remainder interest shall
- 17 vest no later than the date upon which such interest would have
- 18 vested under the terms of the governing instrument for the
- 19 first trust.
- 20 Seventh, the exercise of such authority may not reduce any
- 21 income interest of any income beneficiary of a charitable
- 22 remainder trust under section 664 of the Internal Revenue Code,
- 23 a grantor retained annuity or unitrust trust under section 2702
- 24 of the Internal Revenue Code, or a trust for which a marital
- 25 deduction has been taken for federal tax purposes under section
- 26 2056 or 2523 of the Internal Revenue Code, or for state tax
- 27 purposes under any comparable provision of applicable state
- 28 law.
- 29 Eighth, the exercise of such authority does not apply
- 30 to trust property subject to a presently exercisable power
- 31 of withdrawal held by a trust beneficiary to whom, or for
- 32 the benefit of whom, the trustee has authority to make
- 33 distributions, unless after the exercise of such authority, the
- 34 beneficiary's power of withdrawal is unchanged with respect to
- 35 the trust property.

- 1 Ninth, the exercise of such authority may not suspend the
- 2 power to alienate trust property or extend the first trust
- 3 beyond the permissible period of any rule against perpetuities
- 4 applicable to the first trust.
- 5 The bill contains a provision describing the legislative
- 6 intent of the new decanting section. The new Code section
- 7 is to be declaratory of the common law of this state, which
- 8 permits distributions in further trust, and is to be liberally
- 9 construed to effectuate such intent. In addition, the bill
- 10 provides that no provision of the new decanting section is to
- 11 be construed to abridge the right of any trustee who has the
- 12 power to distribute income or principal.
- 13 The bill provides that any governing instrument providing
- 14 for a trust director or trust protector may also provide such
- 15 trust director or trust protector with some, none, or all
- 16 of the rights, powers, privileges, benefits, immunities, or
- 17 authorities available to a trustee under Iowa law or under the
- 18 governing instrument. The bill also limits the liability of
- 19 trust directors and trust protectors to no greater than that
- 20 of a trustee holding or benefiting from the rights, powers,
- 21 privileges, benefits, immunities, or authority provided or
- 22 allowed by the governing instrument, unless the governing
- 23 instrument provides otherwise.
- 24 The bill places limitations on the liability of an excluded
- 25 fiduciary. The bill provides an excluded fiduciary is not
- 26 liable for any loss that results from compliance with a
- 27 direction of the trust director; any loss that results from a
- 28 failure to take any action proposed by an excluded fiduciary
- 29 that requires prior authorization of the trust director if that
- 30 excluded fiduciary timely sought but failed to obtain that
- 31 authorization; and any loss that results from any action or
- 32 inaction of the excluded fiduciary, except for gross negligence
- 33 or willful misconduct, when the excluded fiduciary is required,
- 34 pursuant to the trust agreement or any other reason, to assume
- 35 the role of trust director or trust protector.

- 1 In terms of other limitations on the liability of an excluded
- 2 fiduciary, the bill states an excluded fiduciary is relieved
- 3 of any obligation to review or evaluate any direction from a
- 4 trust director or to perform investment or suitability reviews,
- 5 or to make recommendations or evaluations with respect to any
- 6 investments to the extent the trust director had authority
- 7 to direct the acquisition, disposition, or retention of the
- 8 investment. The bill provides if the excluded fiduciary offers
- 9 recommendations to the trust director, trust protector, or any
- 10 investment advisor selected by the investment trust director,
- 11 with respect to any investments, such action may not be deemed
- 12 to constitute an undertaking by the excluded fiduciary to
- 13 monitor or otherwise participate in actions within the scope of
- 14 the trust director's authority.
- The bill also relieves the excluded fiduciary from any duty
- 16 to communicate with, warn, or apprise any beneficiary or third
- 17 party concerning instances in which the excluded fiduciary may
- 18 have exercised the excluded fiduciary's own discretion in a
- 19 manner different from the manner directed by the trust director
- 20 or trust protector.
- 21 The bill provides, absent contrary provisions in the
- 22 governing instrument, the actions of the excluded fiduciary
- 23 pertaining to matters within the scope of authority of
- 24 the trust director or trust protector shall be deemed to
- 25 be administrative actions taken by the excluded fiduciary
- 26 solely to allow the excluded fiduciary to perform those
- 27 duties assigned to the excluded fiduciary under the governing
- 28 instrument. Pursuant to the bill, such administrative actions
- 29 shall not be deemed to constitute an undertaking by the
- 30 excluded fiduciary to monitor, participate, or otherwise take
- 31 on any fiduciary responsibility for actions within the scope of
- 32 authority of the trust director or trust protector.
- 33 In terms of the relationship between excluded fiduciaries
- 34 and trust protectors, the bill states that if an instrument
- 35 appoints a trust protector, the excluded fiduciary is not

- 1 liable for any loss resulting from any action taken upon the
- 2 trust protector's direction.
- 3 The bill sets out that in an action against an excluded
- 4 fiduciary, the burden to prove the matter by clear and
- 5 convincing evidence is on the person seeking to hold the
- 6 excluded fiduciary liable.
- 7 The bill provides that, upon the incapacity or death of
- 8 the settlor, an excluded fiduciary may continue to follow the
- 9 direction of the trust director if the instrument so allows.
- 10 The bill states the powers and discretions of a trust
- 11 protector are as provided in the governing instrument and
- 12 may be exercised or not exercised, in the best interests of
- 13 the trust, in the sole and absolute discretion of the trust
- 14 protector. The bill describes actions trust protectors may
- 15 take, unless the governing instrument states otherwise.
- 16 The bill also addresses the jurisdiction of Iowa courts over
- 17 trust directors and trust protectors. The bill states that
- 18 by accepting an appointment to serve as a trust director or
- 19 trust protector of a trust that is subject to the laws of this
- 20 state, the trust director or the trust protector submits to the
- 21 jurisdiction of the courts of Iowa even if investment advisory
- 22 agreements or other related agreements provide otherwise.
- 23 The bill allows any of the powers enumerated in new Code
- 24 section 633A.4805, as such powers exist at the time of the
- 25 signing of a will by a testator or at the time of the signing
- 26 of a trust instrument by a settlor, to be incorporated in such
- 27 will or trust instrument, by a clearly expressed intention of a
- 28 testator of a will or settlor of a trust instrument.
- 29 The bill permits a person to simultaneously serve as a trust
- 30 director and a trust protector.
- 31 The bill states the powers and discretions of an investment
- 32 trust director shall be provided in the trust instrument and
- 33 may be exercised or not exercised, in the best interests of the
- 34 trust, in the sole and absolute discretion of the investment
- 35 trust director. The bill describes actions investment trust

- 1 directors may take, unless the governing instrument states
- 2 otherwise.
- 3 The bill provides the powers and discretions of a
- 4 distribution trust director over any discretionary
- 5 distributions of income or principal, including distributions
- 6 pursuant to an ascertainable standard or other criteria and
- 7 appointments pursuant to new Code section 633A.4215, shall be
- 8 provided in the trust instrument and may be exercised or not
- 9 exercised, in the best interests of the trust, in the sole and
- 10 absolute discretion of the distribution trust director. The
- 11 bill indicates that, unless the terms of the document provide
- 12 otherwise, the distribution trust director is to direct the
- 13 trustee with regard to all discretionary distributions to
- 14 beneficiaries. In addition, the bill allows the distribution
- 15 trust director to provide direction regarding notification of
- 16 qualified beneficiaries pursuant to Code section 633A.4213.
- 17 The bill allows the Code editor to organize the provisions of
- 18 the bill enacting new Code sections 633A.4801 through 633A.4810
- 19 as a new part under subchapter IV in Code chapter 633A.